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AUTHOR	Newkirk, Thomas
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ABSTRACT

This book takes an up-close and personal look at elementary school boys and their relationship to sports, movies, video games, and other avenues of popular culture. The book views these media not as enemies of literacy, but as resources "for" literacy. It contains a series of interviews with young boys and girls who describe the pleasure they take in popular culture, explaining the ways in which they use visual narratives in their writing. The book disproves the simplistic stereotype of boys who are primed to imitate the violence they see. It shows that, rather than mimic, boys most often transform, recombine, and participate in story lines, and resist, mock, and discern the unreality of icons of popular culture. Using a mixture of memoir, research project, cultural analysis, and critique of published findings, the book encourages schools to ask questions about what counts as literacy in boys and what does not, to allow in their literacy programs boys' diverse tastes, values, and learning styles. If educators want boys to join the "literacy club," then they have to invite them in with genres of their own choosing. Includes 8 figures. Contains 165 references. (NKA)

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